

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday 15th April 2012

IRTS 80th Anniversary AGM & Rally

Just one week remaining for the 80th Anniversary IRTS AGM and Rally and you can still purchase your tickets for the special anniversary AGM dinner on Saturday 21st April. However hurry as hotel need final numbers by Thursday next. Dinner tickets are just €32, a reduction on previous years and represents great value for this very special dinner. B&B is €55 for single and a double is €65. The Venue is Fairways Hotel Dundalk, telephone 042-9321500.

Dinner tickets can be bought now by contacting Thos EI2JD on 087-2953256 or email thoscaffrey /at/ hotmail.com or by contacting any IRTS committee member.

The radio rally and exhibition will be held in the large conference hall with lots of space to move about and to peruse at your leisure. It all happens over the weekend of April 21st & 22nd, that's next weekend. A very warm welcome awaits you.

Counties Contest

The 2 metres counties contest on Easter Monday was well supported. We noted in particular that there were quite a few portable stations active, many of these from hilltop locations. Those who braved the hills on a rainy bank holiday Monday included David EI7GEB on Mohercrom, Co. Cavan and Ger EI4GXB on Tountinna in Tipperary, also Joe EI7GY who was on the Slieve Blooms in Co. Laois. We also have reports from the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group, who were operating from Devils Bit, Co. Tipperary and Fergus EI6IB manning the Shannon Basin Radio Club station from Bencroy Co. Leitrim.

As usual, most of the activity in the early part of the contest was on FM, but the SSB portion of the band livened up for the final 30 minutes of the contest.

Licence Examination

The next Amateur Station Licence Examination will be held on Thursday 28th June at 2 p.m. in the ComReg Offices in Dublin. The examination may be held on that day at other centres where warranted by the number of candidates. Full details, including entry procedure and examination fee are available at www.irts.ie/exam

Places for the examination are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please note that it is necessary to download the application form from the web page and forward the completed form and the appropriate fee in order to secure a place for the examination.

Mayo Radio Experimenters - Titanic Special Event

Operation EI 1 MGY

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, The Mayo Radio Experimenters will operate EI 1 MGY from the 8th to 21st of April as part of the Addergoole Titanic Society's week-long centenary programme of events which take place in the village of Lahardane, County Mayo, commencing Easter Sunday 8th April through to Sunday 15th April. In April 1912 fourteen men and women from the Parish of Addergoole, in North Mayo, set sail from Queenstown, Cork for a new life in America. Within days, eleven had died in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. Their ship, 'Titanic', sank on her maiden voyage. Rural Ireland resounds with tales of emigration, steeped in the traditions of letting go. Addergoole will never let go of the memory of eleven neighbours and friends who disappeared with that "Ship of Dreams". Please visit: www.mayo-titanic.com where you can download a brochure of the events taking place during the week.

North Cork Radio Group

The North Cork Radio Group are pleased to announce that they will be activating Mizen Head Visitors Centre again this year for Marconi weekend. The callsign, EI0IMD, will be on the air from 20th April - 22nd April inclusive. As you may know, Marconi Day is on 21st April this year and we will be operating over the full 24 hour period on this day in order that collectors of the Marconi Award will have the opportunity to add us to their list. Mizen Head is a beautiful location and well worth a visit.

Old Timers due at IRTS 80th Anniversary Rally

The Radio Amateur Old Timers Association made a very successful appearance at the Lough Erne Rally. Now, the Old Timers plan to be present at the IRTS 80th Anniversary Rally on Sunday 22 April.

This Association has an important role in amateur radio. It seeks to keep alive the

pioneer spirit and traditions of the past in today's Amateur Radio by means of personal and radio contact, whilst being mindful of any special needs. The magazine, OT News and other publications are a rich treasure of technical and experimental information amid reminiscence and companionship. There are many in Ireland who would enjoy playing a part in the Old Timers Association.

Cork Radio Group

Brow Head near Crookhaven in West Cork was the site of Marconi's western-most European wireless station from 1901 to 1914. Given its unique location, telegraphers there were kept busy 24 hours a day passing messages to and from ships arriving from North America.

Using the call sign EI5IMD, the very site of Marconi's station will be activated by members of Cork Radio Club for International Marconi Day on Saturday, 21 April. The event involves stations from around the world, many operating from sites directly connected with Marconi. It is not a contest but rather a celebration of Marconi's birth on 25 April 1874 and his inventions that literally changed the world.

This year is the 25th anniversary of IMD, which is sponsored by the Cornish Radio Amateur Club. The club's newly-designed website, GB4IMD.com, contains much interesting information including station histories, photographs, historic IMD QSL cards, and a list of award stations for the IMD Award.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

For those who have expressed interest in participating in Theory Classes leading to the Amateur Radio Licence with South Eastern Amateur Radio Group, there will be an information / planning session at our next general meeting which takes place at 8:30 p.m. on Monday 30 April in the Roanmore Centre, Cleaboy Road, Waterford. All are welcome!

The Geoparks communications weekend this year takes place on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 May. South Eastern Amateur Radio Group will again operate from Tankardstown on the Copper Coast Geopark in Co. Waterford. The callsign is EI2GEO (pending approval). Activity will mainly be on HF. Anyone wishing to get involved should contact the club on info/ at/searg.com or phone Mark Wall on 087-6302026. For more information about the Geopark, visit www.coppercoastgeopark.com For more information about SEARG visit the clubs web site on www.searg.com

DX News

Wim ON4CIT and Paul ON4BEC will be active from the Caribbean island of St Barthelemy from 16 – 30 April. They will use the callsign TO3X and will mainly be on SSB and RTTY with some CW. The IOTA reference for this one is NA-146 and the QSL info is via ON4CIT.

The 2012 Asian Weightlifting Championships will be held later this month in South Korea. To celebrate the event the special callsign DT12AWC will be activated from 14 – 30 April. This will be of interest to prefix chasers. QSL Manager is DS2GOO.

Another call of interest to prefix chasers is 6H6IARU which will be aired by members of the Grupo DXXE in Mexico until 18 April. This is to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day and the 87th anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union.

A multi-national group is operating as 9M0L from the Spratley Islands in the South China Sea. They hope to be QRV until 24 April. This is quite a rare DXCC entity and a high demand for contacts is expected. The IOTA reference number is AS-051.

Items for inclusion in next week's Radio News can be submitted via e-mail to "newsteam /at/ irts / dot / ie" for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. Urgent news items for the radio news maybe telephoned to the radio news editor, Aidan, EI7JC on 085 7100511.

Please note that items for the radio news should reach the editor no later than midday on Thursday in order to be guaranteed inclusion in the following Sunday's bulletin.

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